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B104 (FORM 104) (08/07)

**EDVA** 

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING COVER SHEET (Instructions on Reverse)		ADVERSARY PROCEEDING NUMBER (Court Use Only)	
,	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
PLAINTIFFS	DEFENDANTS  WARRY WAR A TOWNS		
ALFRED H. SIEGEL, AS TRUSTEE OF THE CIRCUIT	JUSTIN V	W. LEWIS	
CITY STORES, INC. LIQUIDATING TRUST			
<b>ATTORNEYS</b> (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone No.)	ATTORN	NEYS (If Known)	
TAVENNER & BERAN, PLC			
20 North Eighth Street, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor			
Richmond, Virginia 23219			
(804) 783-8300			
PARTY (Check One Box Only)	PARTY (Check One Box Only)		
Debtor U.S. Trustee/Bankruptcy Admin	Debtor		
Creditor Other	Credito		
☐ Trustee	Trustee	<u>—</u>	
CAUSE OF ACTION (WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE			
Avoidance and Recovery of Fraudulent Transfers and Objection to		, INCLUDING ALL U.S. STATUTES INVOLVED)	
Trotainee and receivery of Fraudatene Transfels and Sofeetion to	Ciums		
NATURE (	E CHIT		
(Number up to five (5) boxes starting with lead cause of action as 1	, first alternat	ive cause as 2, second alternative cause as 3, etc.)	
FRBP 7001(1) – Recovery of Money/Property	FRBP 7001(	6) – Dischargeability (continued)	
11-Recovery of money/property - §542 turnover of property	61-Dischargeability - §523(a)(5), domestic support		
12-Recovery of money/property - §547 preference	68-Dischargeability - §523(a)(6), willful and malicious injury		
13-Recovery of money/property - §548 fraudulent transfer	63-Dischargeability - §523(a)(8), student loan		
14-Recovery of money/property - other		argeability - §523(a)(15), divorce or separation obligation	
FRBP 7001(2) – Validity, Priority or Extent of Lien		r than domestic support)	
21-Validity, priority or extent of lien or other interest in property	65-Disch	argeability - other	
	FRBP 7001(	7) – Injunctive Relief	
FRBP 7001(3) – Approval of Sale of Property	_	ctive relief – imposition of stay	
31-Approval of sale of property of estate and of a co-owner - §363(h)		ctive relief – other	
FRBP 7001(4) – Objection/Revocation of Discharge			
41-Objection / revocation of discharge - \$727(c),(d),(e)		8) Subordination of Claim or Interest	
_ •	81-Suboi	rdination of claim or interest	
FRBP 7001(5) – Revocation of Confirmation	FRBP 7001(	9) Declaratory Judgment	
51-Revocation of confirmation	91-Decla	ratory judgment	
FRBP 7001(6) – Dischargeability	EDDD 7001/	10) D-4	
66-Dischargeability - §523(a)(1),(14),(14A) priority tax claims		10) Determination of Removed Action mination of removed claim or cause	
62-Dischargeability - §523(a)(2), false pretenses, false representation,	or Deter	initiation of femoved claim of class	
actual fraud	Other		
67-Dischargeability - \$523(a)(4), fraud as fiduciary, embezzlement, larceny	SS-SIPA	Case – 15 U.S.C. §§78aaa <i>et.seq</i>	
(continued next column)		(e.g. other actions that would have been brought in state court	
_	h	elated to bankruptcy case)	
Check if this case involves a substantive issue of state law		if this is asserted to be a class action under FRCP 23	
Check if a jury trial is demanded in complaint	Demand \$	424,984	
Other Relief Sought			

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B104 (FORM 104) (08/07), Page 2

BANKRUPTCY CASE IN WHICH THIS ADVERSARY PROCEEDING ARISES					
NAME OF DEBTOR		BANKRUPTCY CASE NO.			
CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC. et al.		08-35653(KRH)			
DISTRICT IN WHICH CASE IS PENDING		DIVISION OFFICE	NAME OF JUDGE		
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA		RICHMOND	HUENNEKENS		
RELATED ADVERSARY PROCEEDING (IF ANY)					
PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT		ADVERSARY		
			PROCEEDING NO.		
DISTRICT IN WHICH ADVERSARY IS PENDING		DIVISION OFFICE	NAME OF JUDGE		
SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (OR PLAINTIFF)					
/s/ Paula S. Beran					
/5/ Faula 5. Delan					
DATE		PRINT NAME OF ATTORNEY (OR PLAINTIFF)			
November 8, 2010		Paula S. Beran			

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

The filing of a bankruptcy case creates an "estate" under the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court which consists of all of the property of the debtor, wherever that property is located. Because the bankruptcy estate is so extensive and the jurisdiction of the court so broad, there may be lawsuits over the property or property rights of the estate. There also may be lawsuits concerning the debtor's discharge. If such a lawsuit is filed in a bankruptcy court, it is called an adversary proceeding.

A party filing an adversary proceeding must also must complete and file Form 104, the Adversary Proceeding Cover Sheet, unless the party files the adversary proceeding electronically through the court's Case Management/Electronic Case Filing system (CM/ECF). (CM/ECF captures the information on Form 104 as part of the filing process.) When completed, the cover sheet summarizes basic information on the adversary proceeding. The clerk of court needs the information to process the adversary proceeding and prepare required statistical reports on court activity.

The cover sheet and the information contained on it do not replace or supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, the Bankruptcy Rules, or the local rules of court. The cover sheet, which is largely self-explanatory, must be completed by the plaintiff's attorney (or by the plaintiff if the plaintiff is not represented by an attorney). A separate cover sheet must be submitted to the clerk for each complaint filed.

**Plaintiffs** and **Defendants.** Give the names of the plaintiffs and defendants exactly as they appear on the complaint.

**Attorneys.** Give the names and addresses of the attorneys, if known.

Party. Check the most appropriate box in the first column for the plaintiffs and the second column for the defendants.

**Demand.** Enter the dollar amount being demanded in the complaint.

**Signature.** This cover sheet must be signed by the attorney of record in the box on the second page of the form. If the plaintiff is represented by a law firm, a member of the firm must sign. If the plaintiff is pro se, that is, not represented by an attorney, the plaintiff must sign.

Jeffrey N. Pomerantz, Esq. Andrew W. Caine, Esq. (admitted *pro hac vice*)

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Alfred H. Siegel, Trustee of the Circuit City Stores,

Inc. Liquidating Trust

Lynn T. Tavenner, Esq. (VA Bar No. 30083) Paula S. Beran, Esq. (VA Bar No. 34679) TAVENNER & BERAN, PLC 20 North Eighth Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

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Stores, Inc. Liquidating Trust

Counsel to Plaintiff
Alfred H. Siegel, Trustee of the Circuit City

# IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA RICHMOND DIVISION

In re:	) Case No. 08-35653 (KRH)
CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC., et al.,	) Chapter 11
Debtors.	) (Jointly Administered)
ALFRED H. SIEGEL, AS TRUSTEE OF THE CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC. LIQUIDATING TRUST	
Plaintiff,	)
v.	)
JUSTIN W. LEWIS,	)
Defendant.	)

THE LIQUIDATING TRUST'S COMPLAINT
TO AVOID AND RECOVER FRAUDULENT TRANSFERS

Alfred H. Siegel, the duly appointed trustee of the Circuit City Stores, Inc.

Liquidating Trust (the "Trustee"), pursuant to the Second Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation of

Circuit City Stores, Inc. and its Affiliated Debtors and Debtors in Possession and its Official

Committee of Creditors Holding General Unsecured Claims (the "Plan"), for his complaint to

avoid and recover fraudulent transfers against Justin W. Lewis ("Defendant"), alleges as follows:

#### THE PARTIES

- 1. The Trustee ("Trustee" or "Plaintiff") is the duly appointed trustee of the Circuit City Stores, Inc. Liquidating Trust (the "Trust"), which was established by virtue of the Plan. Pursuant to Articles II and III of the Trust, the Trustee has the sole authority to pursue claims transferred to the Trust by the Debtors through the Plan, and to litigate objections to claims asserted against the Debtors' estates.
- 2. Prior to the Effective Date of the Plan, Circuit City Stores, Inc. and its affiliated debtors in possession (collectively "Circuit City" or the "Debtors") were corporations organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia with a principal place of business in Richmond, Virginia, and were the debtors in the above-captioned chapter 11 bankruptcy cases. <sup>1</sup>
- 3. Upon information and belief, defendant Justin W. Lewis was a former executive employee of Circuit City.

# JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has jurisdiction to consider this matter under 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 157(b).

The Debtors and the last four digits of their respective taxpayer identification numbers are as follows: Circuit City Stores, Inc. (3875), Circuit City Stores West Coast, Inc. (0785), InterTAN, Inc. (0875), Ventoux International, Inc. (1838), Circuit City Purchasing Company, LLC (5170), CC Aviation, LLC (0841), CC Distribution Company of Virginia, Inc. (2821), Circuit City Properties, LLC (3353), Kinzer Technology, LLC (2157), Abbott Advertising Agency, Inc. (4659), Patapsco Designs, Inc. (6796), Sky Venture Corp. (0311), PRAHS, Inc. (n/a), XSStuff, LLC (9263), Mayland MN, LLC (6116), Courchevel, LLC (n/a), Orbyx Electronics, LLC (3360), and Circuit City Stores PR, LLC (5512).

- 5. Venue of these chapter 11 cases and this adversary proceeding in this district and before this Court is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.
- 6. The statutory and legal predicates for the relief requested by the Complaint are sections 544, 548 and 550 of title 11, United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), Bankruptcy Rules 3007 and 7001, and Local Bankruptcy Rule 3007-1.

## **PERTINENT FACTS**

#### General Case Background

- 7. On November 10, 2008 (the "Petition Date"), the Debtors filed voluntary petitions in this Court for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, and until the effective date of the Plan, continued to operate as debtors in possession pursuant to Bankruptcy Code sections 1107 and 1108.
- 8. On November 12, 2008, the Office of the United States Trustee for the Eastern District of Virginia appointed a statutory committee of unsecured creditors (the "Creditors' Committee").
- 9. On January 16, 2009, the Court authorized the Debtors to, among other things, conduct going out of business sales at all of the Debtors' retail locations (the "Stores") pursuant to an agency agreement (the "Agency Agreement") between the Debtors and a joint venture, as agent (the "Agent"). On January 17, 2009, the Agent commenced going out of business sales at the Stores pursuant to the Agency Agreement. As of March 8, 2009, the going out of business sales at the Debtors' stores were completed.
- 10. On August 9, 2010, the Debtors and the Official Committee of Creditors Holding General Unsecured Claims filed the Plan, which provides for the liquidation of the Debtors' assets and distribution of the proceeds thereof under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

11. On September 10, 2010, the United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Virginia, signed an Order confirming the Plan. The Plan became effective on November 1, 2010, as reflected in the Notice of Effective Date filed on that date.

### The Employment Relationship Between Circuit City And Defendant

- 12. Prior to the commencement of these bankruptcy cases, the Debtors were a leading specialty retailer of consumer electronics and operated large nationwide electronics stores that sold, among other things, televisions, home theatre systems, computers, camcorders, furniture, software, imaging and telecommunications products, and other audio and video electronics.
- 13. Defendant was an executive employee of the Debtors, who held the position of Vice President of Marketing when terminated from the Debtors' employ on June 8, 2005. Defendant was hired by the Debtors on August 1, 2001 and was released, from active service, on May 9, 2005, after less than four years of employment. Defendant thereafter performed no services for the Debtors.

#### Transfers To Defendant Made Within Four Years of the Petition Date

bankruptcy cases, the Debtors transferred property to or for the benefit of Defendant in an amount not less than \$424,984.00. A list identifying each and every transfer from the Debtors to the Defendant during this time period is attached hereto as <a href="Exhibit A">Exhibit A</a> and incorporated herein by reference (collectively, the "Transfers"). The Transfers were made for the purpose of severance compensation after the Defendant's release from active service, following less than four years of employment. Defendant did not perform any services or otherwise provide any value to the Debtors in exchange for the Transfers.

#### FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(For Avoidance Of Fraudulent Transfers -- 11 U.S.C. §§ 544 and 548; Va. Code Ann. § 55-80 and 55-81)

- 15. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the above paragraphs as though fully set forth at length.
- 16. During the four years prior to the Petition Date, the Debtors made the Transfers to Defendant of approximately \$425,000, following less than four years of employment. Defendant did not perform any services or otherwise provide any value, much less a reasonably equivalent value, in exchange for the Transfers.
- 17. The Debtors (a) were insolvent at the time of each of the Transfers or became insolvent as a result thereof; (b) were engaged in business or a transaction, or were about to become so engaged, for which any property remaining with Debtors was an unreasonably small capital; (c) intended to incur, or believed that they would incur debts beyond their ability to pay as such debts matured; or (d) made the Transfers to or for the benefit of the Defendant as an insider under an employment contract not in the ordinary course of business.
- 18. Plaintiff is entitled to an order and judgment under 11 U.S.C. §§ 544 and 548 that the Transfers be avoided in their entirety.

#### **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

(For Recovery Of Property -- 11 U.S.C. § 550)

- 19. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations in the above paragraphs, as though fully set forth herein.
- 20. As alleged above, Plaintiff is entitled to avoid each of the Transfers under 11 U.S.C. §§ 544 and 548. As the Defendant is the initial transferee of the Transfers, Plaintiff is

entitled to recover for the estate the proceeds or value of each of the Transfers under 11 U.S.C. § 550.

21. Plaintiff is entitled to an order and judgment under 11 U.S.C. § 550 that the proceeds or value of each of the Transfers is recovered for the benefit of the estate.

# **WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

- 1. For a determination that each of the Transfers is avoidable as a fraudulent transfers under Sections 544 and 548 of the Bankruptcy Code, and that Plaintiff is entitled to recover the Transfers under Section 550 of the Bankruptcy Code;
  - 2. For costs of suit incurred herein, including, without limitation, attorneys' fees;
- 3. For pre- and post-judgment interest on the judgment amount to the fullest extent allowed by applicable law; and
  - 4. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: Richmond, Virginia November 8, 2010 TAVENNER & BERAN, PLC

/s/ Paula S. Beran

Lynn T. Tavenner (VA Bar No. 30083) Paula S. Beran (VA Bar No. 34679) 20 North Eighth Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Richmond, Virginia 23219 (804) 783-8300

- and -

PACHULSKI STANG ZIEHL & JONES LLP Jeffrey N. Pomerantz, Esq. Andrew W. Caine, Esq. 10100 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles, California 90067-4100 (310) 277-6910

- and -

Robert J. Feinstein, Esq. John A. Morris, Esq. PACHULSKI STANG ZIEHL & JONES LLP 780 Third Avenue, 36<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, New York 10017 (212) 561-7700

Counsel to the Plaintiff Alfred Siegel, as Trustee of the Circuit City Stores, Inc. Liquidating Trust

# EXHIBIT A